

E-Book

MADRAS BASHAI



By

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About the Author:

Mr T Sampath Kumaran is a freelance writer. He regularly contributes articles on Management, Business, Ancient Temples, and Temple Architecture to many leading Dailies and Magazines. His articles are, popular in — The Young World section of THE HINDU

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He was associated in the production of two Documentary films on Nava Tirupathi Temples, and Tirukkurungudi Temple in Tamilnadu.



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Tamil people use their mother tongue Tamil as the primary language for linguistic communication. There are various regional dialects in Tamilnadu namely, Kongu Tamil, Madurai Tamil, Tirunelveli Tamil, Central Tamil, Kumari Tamil, besides Arabu Tamil which extensively uses an Arabic alphabet, Jaffna Tamil spoken in Jaffna peninsula, Ceylon Tamil spoken by Sri Lanka Tamils, Negombo Tamil, spoken by fishermen in Negombo in Sri Lanka, Batticola Tamil in Sri Lanka, Brahmin Tamil a Sanskrit version of Tamil, Iyengar Tamil spoken by Iyengars of Karnataka and Bangalore Tamil with Kannada links, besides Burmese Tamil of Burma origin.

Being a typical metropolitan city, Channai has a considerable share of the population from the neighbouring states and from all over the country. With that said some of the other commonly spoken languages of Chennai include English, Hindi, Kannada, Telugu, Gujarati and few other Indian languages.

Chennai is the home of a unique language called Madras Bashai, which is different than the various dialects, a loose spoken communication slang of Tamil. The Bashi in Madras Bashai comes from Sanskrit and developed mostly during the past three centuries. The term therefore is Tamil for "Madras language". A local dialect spoken in a multilingual context.

Another language that can be easily understood by the locals is that particular dialect of Telugu spoken by the natives of Andhra, who have settled down in Tamil Nadu since many generations. Their Telugu consists of a large collection of Tamil words and is hence easy to understand. However, it is necessary for every person living in

Chennai to learn a few Tamil words/phrases for simple conversations at the grocery store or for bargaining with autowallahs.

You can find the youth calling each other ‘machan’ or ‘machi’ (meaning dude) or adding a suffix ‘da’ at the end of every sentence. One must also not feel offended if they are addressed as ‘nee’/ ‘unake’ instead of ‘neenga’ or ‘ungalku’ (generally used to address with respect). This is not a deliberate attempt to degrade someone; it is just the informal way of city life.

The Tamil syllable ‘zha’ is often pronounced as ‘ya’ or ‘la’ as in ‘vaala palam’ instead of ‘vazha pazham’ (banana). Another common syllable used is ‘dichu’ instead of ‘urthu’ as in ‘poidichu’ instead of ‘poiruthu’ (gone).

‘Mokka’ (as in a lame joke), ‘bandha’ (show-off), ‘semma’ (superb), ‘vetti’ (joblessness, used among friends, but not in a derogatory manner)-these are some slang words one might learn within a few weeks from staying in Chennai.

Other than the certain stereotypical syllables like – ‘aa’ as in ‘right-aa?’ (Is that right?) or ‘apadiyaa’ (Is that so?) and ‘u’ as in ‘left-u’ or ‘turn-u’, one must know certain other terms to enjoy a conversation with a local.

SOME COMMON SLANG WORDS IN MADRAS BASHAI ARE:

Aapu –	failure
Aalinaal Alaguraaja –	Jack of all arts
Aattaya poadrathu –	to steal
Adjist –	adjust
Allo –	Hey there!
Annthanda po –	go that side
Ayye –	So?

Bulb vanguruthu –	to get embarrassed
Bajaru	Market
Bejaar –	Nuisance
Bittu –	a strip of paper for copying
Dimiki -	To cheat
Dindu	Pillow
Dumeel	Untrue / False
Danda Soru	Useless person
Dharma adi	Merciless beating
Dhamathundu	small
Dhool	A superlative as in well done
Dil	Have you guts
Ditchu	Drainage
Dochu	Unattractive woman
Dubakour	Consummate liar
Dumil ulradu	Acting too smart
Duddu	Money
Ding Dong	Egg mixed with Gravy
Dommai	Carefree
Eguru	Run fast / jump
Esagurundhu	Escape
Feelingu	sadness
Figaru	Attractive woman
Fee a vidu	Let it free
Gabbu	stink
Gajju	dirty
Gaali	Finished
Gaana patty	film music
Gaandu	irritate a person
Galatta	Noicy / Quarell
Galiju	Dirty

Gandhi kanakku	Fraudulant accounting
Gapsa	lies
Gelichan	Won
Gethu	Super
Gokka Makka	Goodness
Gilfans	a person with shady background
Gilma	strange stuff
Gilli	Talented person
Godavule gudi	Jump into the fray
Goiya	useless person
Golti	Telugu speaker
Goodhal	Tricky person
Gumbal	Bastard
Gumbalode Govinda	One in others in the group
Gujjals	Petting
Gujili	Young girl
Gum papa	attractive young girl
Govinda	unexpected failure
Ingilipeesu	English
Ippidikka	This way
Iskool	school
Isthukonupo	Take one away
Isthunuvaa	Fetch
Jabardastu	Show off
Jagaa vangarathu	To escape from the scene
Jalaai	To have bowl movement
Jalpu	To catch cold
Jalsa	To enjoy
Jiddu	sticky
Jatka	Derogatory – hindi speaker
Jodrepperi	Cobler

Jollu vidurathu	To ogle at a girl
Joot	To escape
Jujupee	small
Kaava vidurad	mis fielding
Kabodi	Derogative of blind
Kamnati	dumb fellow / a clown
Kanji	gruel
Kanpiece	confuse
KD	Intelligent criminal
Kachery	Drink party
Kadalai	verbal flirting
Kalakkaradu	To impress ones performance
Kalaaikkaradu	To make fun of some one
Kakkoos	Lavatory
Kasmalam	idiot
Kattai	one who does not respond
Kaidey	Donkey
Kandukunnu varen	will checkup and come
Kenai	fool
Keivi	old womwn
Kep maari	capable of handling things
Kozha adi sandai	Major fight
Kaithaa	Is it there
Kishnayil	Kerosene
Kottikaradu	Eat shamelessly
Kundu	To sit down
Kutthu	To stab
Lord Labakadoss	A person who thinks high
Leevu	Holiday
Lollu	Fussing
Look vudaradu	To ckeck some one out

Loosu	crazy
Loosele vidu	Let it go
Lumpa	Lump sum
Maal	Any kind of commission
Maamool	Bribe
Machi	slag - brother
Majaa	fun
Mama/ Mamey	policeman
Mama veedu	prison
Mangaatha	3 card game
Manja	adhesive
Maramandai	wooden head
Mattai	flat
Mayiru	hair
Matteru	matter
Militaery hotel	non-veg hotel
Naina	father
Nasta	breakfast
Neetta	strait
Nijaar	shorts
OB adikkaratu	To waste time
OC	Free
Pannade	bad person
Paradesi	unkown person
Peela	Petty lie
Porambokku	a person without identity
Porikki	Idiot
Pista	Local tycoon
Raseedu	Receipt
Raavundu	small quantity
Reel	lame excuse

Rowdy	ruffian
Sarakku	liquor
Savu girakki	useless fellow
Semma	very
Sappa matter	Easy thing
Sothai	bad / useless
Takkaru	super
Tamashu	funny
Thanni kaataradu	To cheat
Usharu	cautious
Vali	pull
Vetti	do nothing
Yachakalai	a person without any shame
Zhusu	Juice

